IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. (Canceled).

30. (Canceled).

31. (Canceled).

32. (Canceled).

33. (Canceled).

34. (Canceled).

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) A system for supporting oversubscription, comprising:

a telecommunications switch operable to assign a plurality of telephone numbers to a line, to receive an incoming call for one of the telephone numbers, and to communicate the incoming call associated with the telephone number using the line; and

a voice gateway coupled to the telecommunications switch using the line, the voice gateway operable to receive the incoming call, to detect a unique distinctive ring assigned to the telephone number associated with the incoming call, and to communicate the incoming call according to the distinctive ring;

wherein the voice gateway processes the incoming call into the digital packets according to the distinctive ring by identifying an address associated with the distinctive ring and assigning the address to the digital packets.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 38, wherein the address is an Internet Protocol (IP), Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), or Frame Relay address.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 37,~~ Claim 38, wherein the voice gateway communicates the incoming call by processing the incoming call into digital packets according to the distinctive ring and communicating the digital packets to a customer premises interface for further communication to a customer premises, wherein the customer premises interface is a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) operable to communicate the digital packets over a twisted pair in a local loop using a digital subscriber line.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 36~~ Claim 38, wherein the voice gateway is further operable to communicate the incoming call to a selected one of a plurality of output lines according to the distinctive ring.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 36~~ Claim 38, wherein the telecommunications switch is further operable to assign at least four telephone numbers to the line.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 36~~ Claim 38, wherein the voice gateway is further operable to receive an outgoing call originated at a customer premises, to identify an available line from a plurality of lines coupled between the telecommunications switch and the voice gateway, and to communicate the outgoing call to the telecommunications switch using the available line.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 43, wherein the voice gateway communicates the outgoing call by receiving digital packets, processing the digital packets into a voice signal, and communicating the voice signal to the telecommunications switch using the available line.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 43, wherein the plurality of lines is a hunt group.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 36~~ Claim 38, wherein:

the telecommunications switch is a Class 5 switch; and

the voice gateway is further operable to couple to the Class 5 switch without using an overlay Class 5 switch or digital loop carrier architecture.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~Claim 36~~ Claim 38, wherein the line is an unbundled analog line.

48. (Canceled).

49. (Canceled).

50. (Previously Presented) A voice gateway for supporting oversubscription of a line coupled to a telecommunications switch, the voice gateway operable to receive a first incoming call with a first distinctive ring from the line and to communicate first incoming call to a first destination according to the first distinctive ring, the voice gateway further operable to receive a second incoming call with a second distinctive ring from the line and to communicate the second incoming call to a second destination according to the second distinctive ring;

wherein the voice gateway processes the first incoming call into the digital packets according to the first distinctive ring by identifying an address associated with the first distinctive ring and assigning the address to the digital packets.

51. (Previously Presented) The voice gateway of Claim 50, wherein the address is an Internet Protocol (IP), Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), or Frame Relay address.

52. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 49,~~ Claim 50, wherein the voice gateway communicates the first incoming call by processing the first incoming call into digital packets according to the first distinctive ring and communicating the digital packets to a customer premises, wherein the voice gateway communicates the digital packets to the customer premises using a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) operable to communicate the digital packets over a twisted pair in a local loop using a digital subscriber line.

53. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 50, wherein the voice gateway is further operable to communicate the first incoming call to a selected one of a plurality of output lines according to the first distinctive ring.

54. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 50, wherein the voice gateway receives the second incoming call after terminating the first incoming call.

55. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 50, wherein the voice gateway is further operable to support oversubscription of at least 4:1.

56. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 50, wherein the voice gateway is further operable to receive an outgoing call originated at a customer premises, to identify an available line from a plurality of lines coupled to the telecommunications switch, and to communicate the outgoing call to the telecommunications switch using the available line.

57. (Previously Presented) The voice gateway of Claim 56, wherein the voice gateway communicates the outgoing call by receiving digital packets, processing the digital packets into a voice signal, and communicating the voice signal to the telecommunications switch using the available line.

58. (Previously Presented) The voice gateway of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of lines is a hunt group.

59. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 50, wherein:

the telecommunications switch is a Class 5 switch; and

the voice gateway is further operable to couple to the Class 5 switch without using an overlay Class 5 switch or digital loop carrier architecture.

60. (Currently Amended) The voice gateway of ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 50, wherein the lines are unbundled analog lines.

61. (Canceled).

62. (Canceled).

63. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting oversubscription of a line coupled to a telecommunications switch, comprising:

receiving a first incoming call with a first distinctive ring from the line coupled to the telecommunication switch;

communicating the first incoming call to a first destination according to the first distinctive ring;

receiving a second incoming call with a second distinctive ring from the line; and

communicating the second incoming call to a second destination according to the second distinctive ring;

wherein processing the first incoming call into the digital packets according to the first distinctive ring further comprises:

identifying an address associated with the first distinctive ring; and

assigning the address to the digital packets.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 63, wherein the address is an Internet Protocol (IP), Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), or Frame Relay address.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 62,~~ Claim 63, wherein communicating the first incoming call to the first destination according to the first distinctive ring further comprises:

processing the first incoming call into digital packets according to the first distinctive ring; and

communicating the digital packets to a customer premises, wherein communicating the digital packets to the customer premises further comprises communicating the digital packets to a customer premises interface for further communications to the customer premises.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 65, wherein the customer premises interface is a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) operable to communicate the digital packets over a twisted pair in a local loop using a digital subscriber line.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 63, wherein communicating the first incoming call to the first destination according to the first distinctive ring further comprises:

selecting one of a plurality of output lines according to the first distinctive ring; and

communicating the first incoming call using the selected output line.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 63, further comprising terminating the first incoming call before receiving the second incoming call.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 63, further comprising providing at least 4:1 oversubscription of the line.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 63, further comprising:

receiving an outgoing call from a customer premises;

identifying an available line from a plurality of lines coupled to the telecommunications switch; and

communicating the outgoing call to the telecommunications switch using the available line.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein communicating the outgoing call to the telecommunications switch further comprises:

receiving digital packets from a customer premises interface;

processing the digital packets into a voice signal; and

communicating the voice signal to the telecommunications switch using the available line.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the plurality of lines is a hunt group.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 63, wherein:

the telecommunications switch is a Class 5 switch; and

the lines couple to the Class 5 switch without using an overlay Class 5 switch or digital loop carrier architecture.

74. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 61~~ Claim 63, wherein the lines are unbundled analog lines.

75. (Canceled).

76. (Canceled).

77. (Canceled).

78. (Canceled).

79. (Canceled).

80. (Canceled).

81. (Canceled).

82. (Canceled).

83. (Canceled).

84. (Canceled).